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CHIEF JUSTICE PRESENTS PRIORITIES TO NAVAJO NATION LEADERSHIP

Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne attended the Navajo Nation Leadership Meeting with Navajo Nation Council Delegates and Vice President Myron Lizer on Friday, March 22, 2019, at Twin Arrows, Leupp, Arizona.

At the leadership meeting, she heard the priorities of the Office of the President and Vice President and the four standing committees of the Navajo Nation Council. Chief Justice Jayne also presented the recommendations and priorities of the Judicial Branch.

Regarding long term priorities, Chief Justice Jayne said the four top priorities of the branch are sovereignty, judicial independence, restorative justice and Diné Fundamental Law.

The chief justice said the short term priorities for the branch are recruitment of judges, facilities, addressing the high caseload and training for judges and staff. She noted that there are nine vacancies for district court judges and one vacancy for associate justice. These need to be filled to help address the high caseload. The judges also require training so they have the knowledge and wisdom to uphold the long term priorities of the Judicial Branch, she said.

Chief Justice Jayne also recommended that the Navajo Nation establish a process to develop a Navajo Nation Priority Master Plan, that the comprehensive budget should reflect the master plan, and the leadership should reflect and reassess the priorities annually.

Chief Justice Jayne finished her presentation by inviting the leadership to visit the courts and offered an extended presentation on the branch's priorities at a future date.

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